



Between the Covers: What's Inside a Children's Book?

By Deborah DeGross

Review by Barb Anderson

Your daughter is in sixth grade and loves to read. You are thrilled to see how many books she goes through each month. Then one day you pick up one of her library books and read portions of a story that describe the normalcy of sexual experimentation on a date—encouraged by a boy who names his penis “Ralph.” The young girl says, “Once I got over being scared I let my hands go everywhere. I wanted to feel every part of him.” The boy tells the girl “Everything’s right...” What? This is a book for school-age children? You are shocked and angry. You had no idea that the contents of a book for a minor child could contain such harmful trash.

How can any parent possibly know the subject matter of so many different books that are written for youth? The good news is that Deborah DeGross has done the work for moms and dads. She has read and reviewed countless children’s books—categorizing and evaluating them in her book, *Between the Covers*. She has made it easy for parents to look up and see what many of these books for school-age children are about. Her book serves as a warning bell to impel moms and dads to find out what their children are reading.

DeGross’s superb research about the content of children’s books reveals the fact that the literature sold to children not only has been dumbed-down, but contains pervasive profanity, graphic violence, and graphic sex. In addition, Christianity is often ridiculed while Islam is presented in a positive light.

DeGross warns that certain books can be detrimental to a child’s development because they create a new normal for behavior by changing the feelings, attitudes, and beliefs in children.

It comes as no surprise that a steady diet of these kinds of books is causing an increase in profanity, sexual acting out, and LGBT acceptance. Incest has also become a theme in books for teens and is on its way to become another accepted preference or orientation.

Children's thoughts are plastic and moldable. They easily embrace the ideas they read about and often imitate the characters by acting out their behavior. We know how the Nazi's used children's books to change the thinking and behavior of children to convince them that Jews were to be hated and regarded as sub human.

Communists, too, understand the power of literature to change the thinking of America's youth who are the future of our country. In 1963, 45 Communist goals were introduced into the Congressional record. Two of them include:

25. Break down cultural standards of morality by promoting pornography and obscenity in books, magazines, motion pictures, radio, and TV.

26. Present homosexuality, degeneracy and promiscuity as "normal, natural, and healthy."

Book selections for America's young people are full of themes that destroy the innocence of our children and break down the family. There was a time when school literature focused on moral or instructional value. That time is over. Parents can no longer afford to trust the professionals or turn a blind eye to the toxic propaganda that children are being fed in their reading assignments. There is only so much time children have to read books and parents need to make sure that what they are reading is edifying.

DeGroat closes her book with a profound quote by Sir Walter Scott, the author of *Ivanhoe* and numerous other works. It is a quote that every librarian and author of children's books should read:

"I have been, perhaps, the most voluminous author of the day, and it is a comfort to me to think that I have tried to unsettle no man's faith, to corrupt no man's principles, and that I have written nothing which, on my death-bed, I should wish blotted."

Tragically, the writers of teen literature are continuing to produce more and more books that corrupt the minds and principles of young people. It's time for parents to once again be the gatekeepers for their children—especially when it comes to what their children are reading.